

Gray Wolf Management Monthly Update for September 2014

Note: Information in this update is intended to highlight the month's major wolf management actions and is not intended to be a comprehensive detailing of all management activities. Information in this update is draft and subject to change as details from the field become available. Finalized annual reporting of this information will be published in the 2014 annual wolf report available in April 2015 on the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's website.

Verified Wolf Killed Livestock

- Number of verified wolf killed or injured livestock and dogs caused by wolves classified as trophy game animals since January 1, 2014.

Number of livestock and dogs	57
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Research and Monitoring

- Large Carnivore Section personnel completed the 2013 Wyoming Gray Wolf Monitoring and Management Annual Report. The annual report summarizes all information on wolf monitoring and management in Wyoming statewide during calendar year 2013. The annual report is available to the public at the following link:

http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/imgs/QRDocs/WYWOLF_ANNUALREPORT_2013.pdf

- Large Carnivore Section personnel have been investigating clusters of GPS locations collected from GPS collars deployed on wolves; data collected will assist in evaluating relationships between wolf predation and ungulate populations.

Wolf Management (Captures, Relocations, and Removals)

- Number of wolves classified as trophy game animals removed in control actions since January 1, 2014.

Number of wolves	24
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- A ruling from federal district court on September 23, 2014 overturned the US Fish and Wildlife Service's delisting rule for wolves in Wyoming, effectively returning wolf management to federal authority. In response, the Department and Governor Mead's office acted to alleviate the court's concern by enacting an emergency regulation, which the court rebuffed, affirming its previous decision. As of September 23, all wolf management authority in the state of Wyoming is the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service until such time as wolves are once again delisted in Wyoming. Please see the following links for further information on the Governor's office and the State's response:

<http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/news-1002256.aspx>

<http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/news-1002269.aspx>

The federal court opinion in question can be found here:

https://ecf.dcd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/show_public_doc?2012cv1833-68

Law Enforcement and Related Activities

- Nothing to report.

Outreach and Education

- Department personnel responded to the federal district court ruling promptly by notifying Wyoming's public of the change in wolf status using multiple media outlets and personal contacts.

Hunting Update

- Following the federal district court ruling placing wolves under federal management, all take of wolves in Wyoming was suspended including wolf hunting seasons, take of wolves designated as predatory animals, defense of private property rules, and Lethal Take Permits. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will assume all management decisions for wolves until further notice.
- See the following link for wolf mortality updates up to the date wolves were re-listed pursuant to the recent federal district court ruling (September 23, 2014):
<http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/HUNTING-1000743.aspx>